

St. Herman Russian Orthodox Church  
King Cove  
Alaska

HABS No. AK-74

HABS  
AK

1-KICO,

1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Washington, D.D. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
ST. HERMAN RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

HABS No. AK-74

HABS  
AK  
1-KICO  
1-

- Location: King Cove, Alaska Peninsula, Alaska.
- Significance: The iconostas of this church was originally installed in the 1882 church at Belkofski, and features moldings, incisework, paneling, and horseshoe-arched openings.
- Description: The church is a wood-framed, T1-11-sided rectangular building, measuring 28'-2" x 40'-1". The gable roof over this block covers the sanctuary, nave, and narthex.
- The most interesting aspect of this building is the iconostas and icons. The iconostas is divided into seven bays by colonettes and paneled box columns. The frames around each icon are horseshoe-arched, ornamented with incisework. Carved grapes and leaves are found around the royal doors. The lower 6" of each paneled wall area below the icon was cut off when the iconostas was removed to this church.
- Also in the church are four bells, not yet hung, marked "W. T. GARRATT, S.F. CAL." and dated 1870 and 1881.
- History: The church was built in about 1884. In about 1987, the iconostas was moved here from Belkofski. That church had been built in about 1882, and featured pedimented window frames, a Classical doorway, and three octagonal cupolas. Belkofski has been abandoned.
- At the time the Belkofski church was built, the churches in the Aleutians were divided into two parishes. The Belkofski parish included the eastern part of the Aleutian Chain and the southern part of the Alaska Peninsula, while the Unalaska parish included the western part of the Aleutian Chain (Petroff, 18). The grandeur of this iconostas -- and its resemblance to Unalaska's -- is thus explained. Despite its role as the seat of a parish, Belkofski was not large, with a population of 108 Aleuts, 89 creoles, and 11 whites in the early 1880s (Petroff, 23).
- Sources: Naske, Claus-M., and Louis J. Rowinski. Alaska: A Pictorial History. Norfolk, Va.: Donning Co., 1983. Page 67 shows a photograph of the iconostas of the Belkofski church.
- Petroff, Ivan. Report on the Population, Industries, and Resources of Alaska. Washington: GPO, 1884.
- Wallace, Fern A. The Flame of the Candle. Chilliwack, B.C.: SS. Kyril and Methody Society, 1974. Plate 56 is an exterior view of the Belkofski church and plate 57 an interior one.
- Historian: Alison K. Hoagland, HABS Historian, 1990.

ADDENDUM TO  
ST. HERMAN RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH  
King Cove  
Aleutian Islands  
Alaska

HABS No. AK-74

HABS  
AK  
1-KICO,  
1-

XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013